Reframing for the Future

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Wikiversity Living Wisely

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A Vital Insight

In 1971 Philosopher Peter Singer asked:
• Would you rescue this girl and save her life, or
• Would you walk by and save your $1,000 suit?

Empathy does not scale,
    but we can use *reason* to overcome this bug.

There is no *moral distinction* between the suffering of someone you know and someone you will never meet.

GiveWell.org can save a human life for about $1,000.

We can address the grand challenges.

[Grand Challenges](#)—Our Priorities

- **Physical Health**
  - Water scarcity, sanitation, malnutrition, obesity, disease, substance abuse, poor fitness, inadequate healthcare
- **Safety and Security**
  - Violence, homicide, terrorism, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, crime, bullying, urban decay
- **Economic and social opportunity**
  - Poverty, economic inequality, homelessness, inadequate education, unemployment, underemployment, oppression, discrimination
- **Stability**
  - Divorce, unintended pregnancies, incarceration, vandalism, natural disasters
- **Mental Health**
  - Depression, chronic stress, suicide, addictions, access to mental health services
- **Environmental stewardship**
  - Environmental degradation, global warming, destruction of natural habitats, depletion of natural resources, natural disasters, species extinctions, poaching

Shifting Reference Frames

- Grand Challenges
- The future of education is learning
- Shifting Pinnacles
- Global Perspective
  - Tribal to Global
- Reality is Awesome!
  - Systems Thinking
- Problem Finding
- Coping with Abundance
- Reversals
- Human Rights, Worldwide
- Assignment

The future of education is learning

Facts are now at our fingertips

- **The future of learning is wisdom.**

What do students want?

- Career (Income)
- Reputation (Stature)
- Education (the answers, the skills, the capabilities)
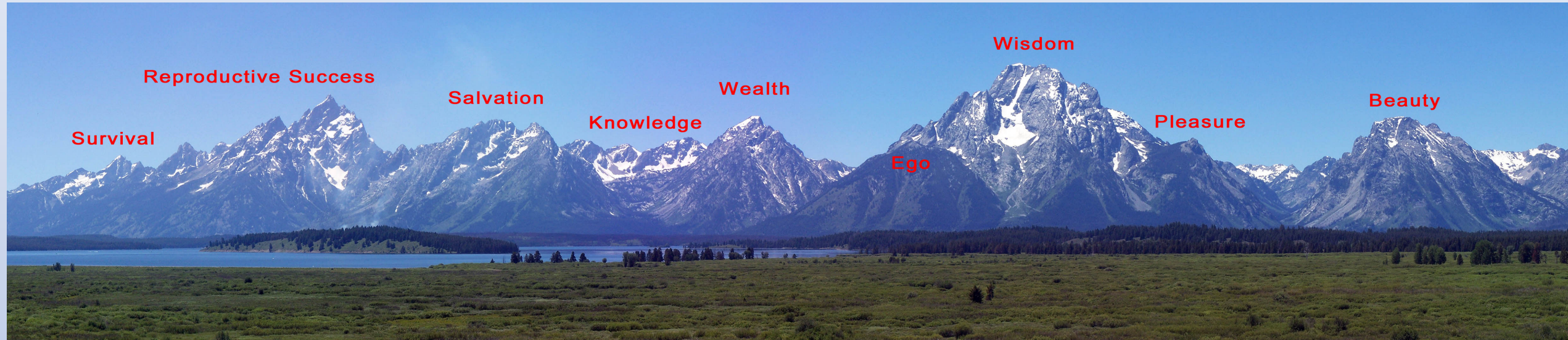
Social constructs → Brute facts

Teaching → Learning

Teacher role → Student role

Lecture → Curiosity, Exploration, Study, Affordances, Experience, Research

Graduation → Certification, Credentials, Continuing
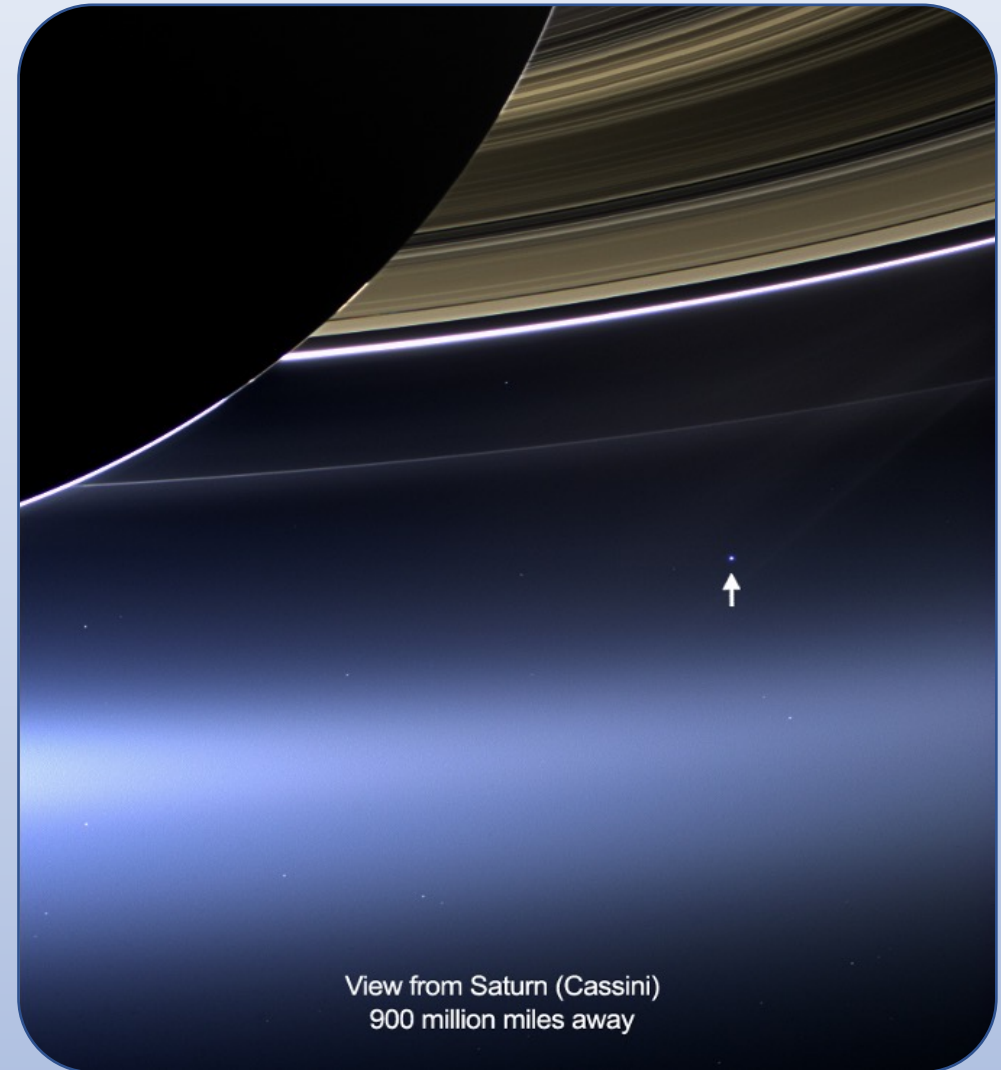
Shifting Pinnacles—Wealth to Wisdom

Wisdom is good judgment in pursuit of well-being

Global Perspective—considering all that matters

It *is* a small world after all!

Earth viewed from Saturn
Cassini spacecraft
900 million miles away

View from Saturn (Cassini)
900 million miles away

Global Perspective—considering all that matters

Expand your circle of concern:

Expand the time horizon

Past, present, future, far future
Seven generation Stewardship

Expand toward a global scope

What really matters?
Who really matters?
Who are the stakeholders in this decision?
Answer from a global rather than a tribal perspective.
Systems thinking—interactions

National progress toward a global perspective

- "All men are created equal" – 1776
- "equal protection of the laws" – 1868
  - Slaves become citizens
- Women can vote – 1919
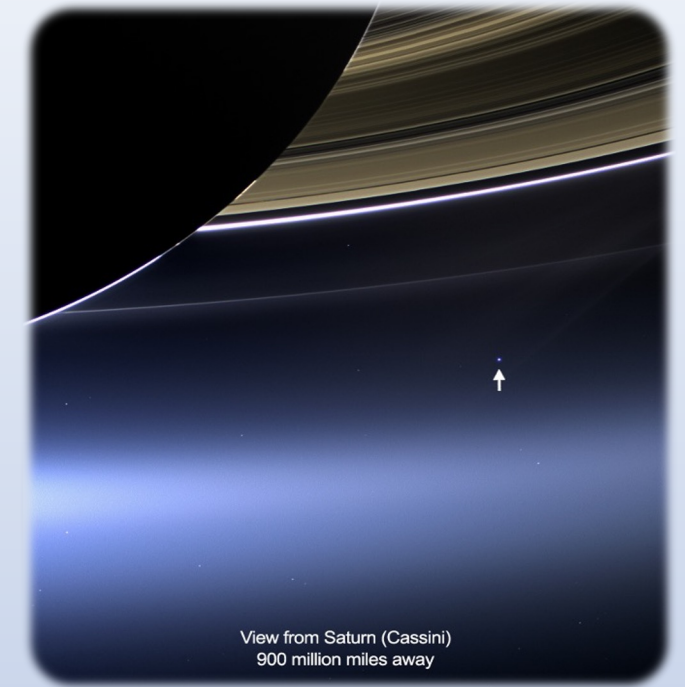- Homosexuals can marry – 2015

We are like a blind person examining an elephant when we fail to adopt a global perspective.

Global Perspective

Peter Singer: There is no moral distinction between the suffering of someone you know and someone you will never meet.

Problems persist because a narrow point of view has prevailed:
• We often have a narrow focus on economic growth
  • and economics is a flawed and narrow metric
• Negative externalities are dismissed.
• We often consider only a short-term time frame.
• We often adopt a narrow scope of concern.
  • When we accept a narrow point of view, we are like the blind men examining the elephant. We are each correct within the limited scope of our reference frame, but we are incorrect when a global perspective is adopted.
• Our instincts are tribal. We have evolved to promote in-group cooperation at the expense of competition between groups.
• Evidence is denied, delayed, distorted, and disputed.
• We often settle for a narrow definition of success.
• We often make assumptions of unlimited growth.

View from Saturn (Cassini)
900 million miles away

Reality is Awesome!
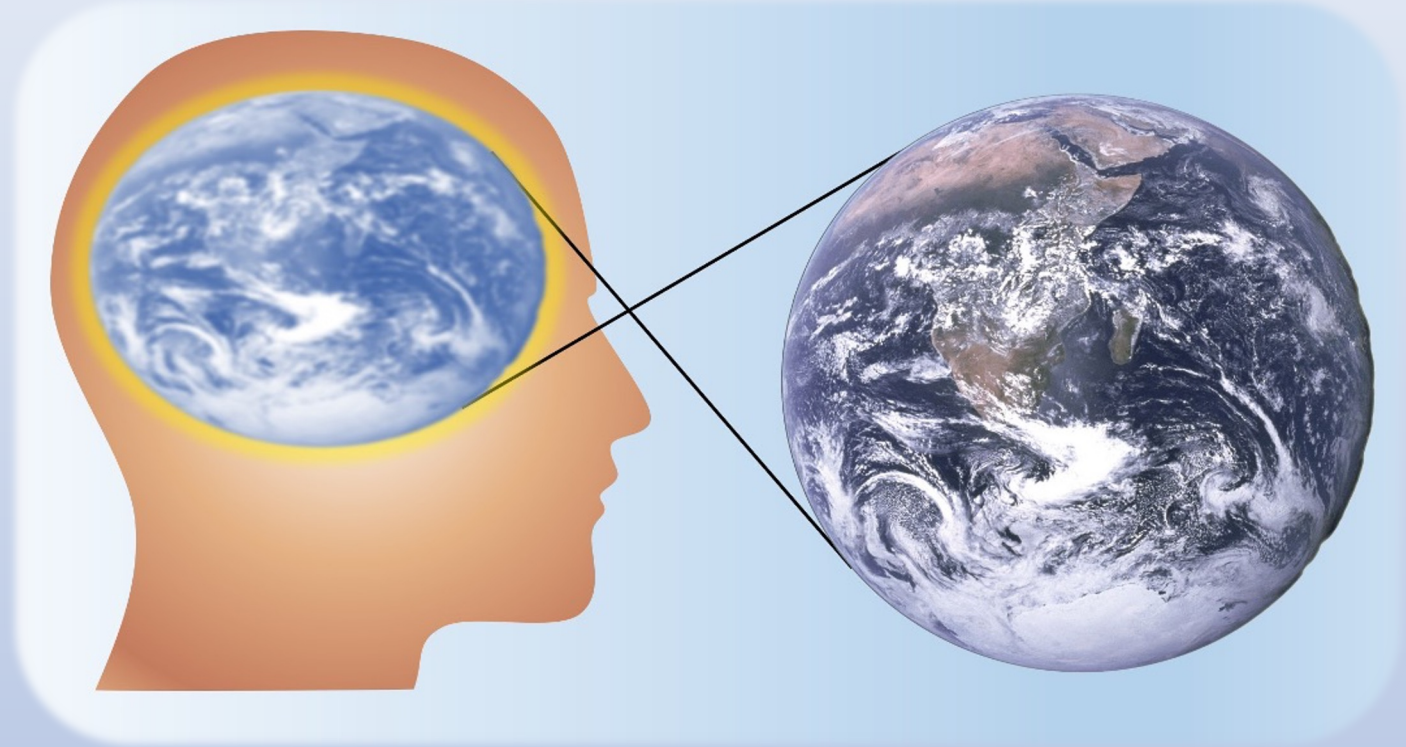
Facing Facts—Aligning Worldviews
Our collected mental models form our worldview.
We rely on our worldview for making decisions.
We can be misled by inaccurate worldviews.
The only accurate worldview corresponds to reality.

We have a *moral obligation* to align our worldview with reality.

What is more likely true?
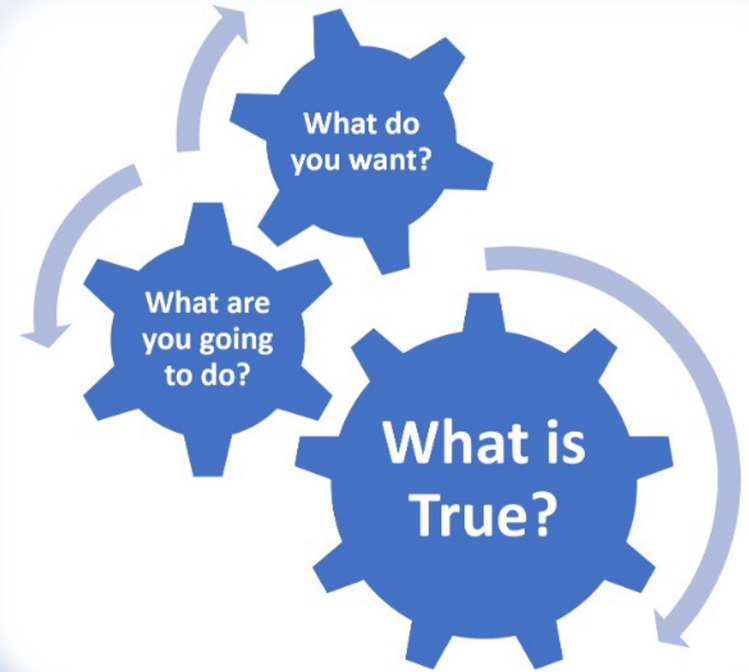- Global warming, or
- Afterlife

How do you know?

**Reality is a constraint and an opportunity.
It is wise to align our worldviews with the real world.**

Problem Finding

What do you want?
What is true?
What are you going to do about it?

Find the *real* problem before exploring solutions.

Systems Thinking — Connections

"You can't do just one thing."

- Understanding complexity, frame up then drill down
- Studying interactions, identifying feedback paths
- What are the many causes that contribute to this effect?
  - Many opportunities for improvement
- What are the many effects that result from this cause?
  - Identify unintended consequences

Coping with Abundance

We survived scarcity; we can certainly learn to cope with abundance.

Humans can hope, learn, grow, invent, create, and make better choices. If we decide to describe revenge, greed, hubris, vanity, fear, and righteousness as the villains—and people as the hope—we can come together to create the possibility of a better world for ourselves. We can create a world where love displaces hate, selfishness gives way to generosity and contribution, hope overcomes fear, trust replaces suspicion, arrogance matures into humility, helping becomes more rewarding than cheating and stealing, winning gives way to enjoyment and fulfillment, and compassion overcomes anger, revenge, and violence. We can enjoy the awesome beauty of nature, the warm rich comfort of healthy relationships, and peace of mind. We can all learn the art of possibility, we can all practice the Golden Rule, and we can enjoy the remarkable potential of our humanity. All our needs *can* be met; we can *all* have enough.

[Reversals](#)—Change your viewpoint

Cause ↔ Effect
Customer ↔ Supplier
Bottom up ↔ Top down
Emergent ↔ Designed
Distributed ↔ Centralized
Giver ↔ Recipient
Scarce ↔ Abundant
Payer ↔ Collector
Share ↔ Hoard
Talk ↔ Listen
Input ↔ Output
In ↔ Out
Top ↔ Bottom
Upright ↔ Sideways
Left ↔ Right
Social Constructs ↔ Brute Facts
Close ↔ Distant
Near ↔ Far

Fast ↔ Slow
Strong ↔ Weak
Forward ↔ Backward
Movable ↔ Fixed
Dynamic ↔ Static
Linear ↔ Circular
Linear ↔ Radial
Circular ↔ Spiral
Spiral ↔ Helix
Helix ↔ Möbius strip
Microscope ↔ Telescope
Focused ↔ Circumspect
Complex ↔ Simple
Black ↔ White
Objective ↔ Subjective
Light ↔ Dark
Day ↔ Night
Light ↔ Heavy

Foreground ↔ Background
Forest ↔ Trees
Headline ↔ Footnote
Push ↔ Pull
Fall ↔ Rise
Obvious ↔ Cryptic
Obvious ↔ Incorrect
Known ↔ Unknown
Master ↔ Slave
Powerful ↔ Powerless
Own ↔ Rent
Democracy ↔ Tyranny
Comedy ↔ Tragedy
Play ↔ Work
Teacher ↔ Student
Teach ↔ Learn
Doctor ↔ Patient
Expert ↔ Novice

Human Rights, Worldwide

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - 30 Articles
  - Adopted 1948 without objection.

Our failures to protect human rights worldwide cause:

War, refugee displacements, immigration issues, oppression, torture, jehad, terrorism, poverty, limited access to education, systemic inequality, endemic diseases, and many more

An opportunity Beyond Olympic Gold

Assignment—An invitation

- Study the Wikiversity course [Envisioning our Future](#)
- Read the essay "[Toward Compassion](#)".
- Write your essay
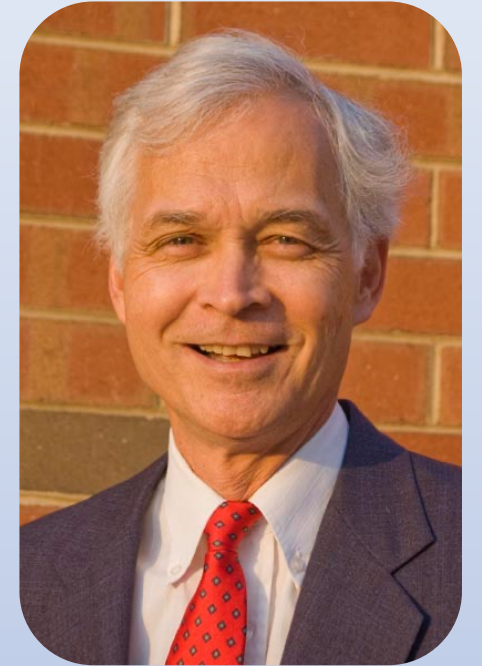 - Contact me if I can help

Extra Credit:
- [Toward a Third Attractor](#) – Job Jar
- [Real, Good Insights](#)
- [Live Wisely](#)
- [Beyond Olympic Gold](#)

Reframing for the Future

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Wikiversity Living Wisely

Thank You!